

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A device for applying torque to a wire, comprising:

a body portion having an open ended channel with opposed side surfaces and a bottom surface that ~~extends~~ extend along an entire length of the body portion for allowing the wire to be side-loaded into the channel;

a tongue ~~supported~~ suspended in the channel between the opposing side surfaces, the tongue including a first engagement surface positioned above the bottom surface of the channel;

a slider that is longitudinally slideable within the open ended channel of the body portion, the slider having a second engagement surface disposed adjacent the wire when the wire is side-loaded in the channel; and

wherein longitudinal movement of the slider within the open ended channel of the body portion compresses the wire between the first engagement surface of the tongue and the second engagement surface of the slider so that rotation of the body portion applies torque to the wire.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the first engagement surface of the tongue and the second engagement surface of the slider are angled in a similar manner with respect to the bottom surface of the open ended channel so that the wire is compressed therebetween.

5. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the body portion has a grip enhancing mechanism.

6. (Original) The device of Claim 5, wherein the grip enhancing mechanism comprises one or more ridges on the exterior of the body portion.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A wire torquing device, comprising:

a body having a length;

an open ended channel having a bottom surface, the open ended channel extending along the entire length of the body into which a wire can be laterally fitted;

a projection that projects into the open ended channel and is suspended above the bottom surface;

a slider that remains in the open ended channel as the wire is laterally fitted along the length of the open ended channel and is movable longitudinally therein, the slider including an open ended channel configured for laterally receiving the wire and being substantially aligned with the open ended channel of the body, the open ended channel of the slider defining an engagement surface; and

wherein the open ended channel of the slider laterally receives a portion of the wire when laterally fitted in the open ended channel of the body, and wherein the engagement surface of the slider secures the wire against the projection as the slider is moved longitudinally in the open ended channel of the body.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A wire torquing device comprising:

a body having an open U-shaped channel extending along an entire length thereof in which a wire can be fitted;

a slider that is movable longitudinally within the channel; and

wherein the open U-shaped channel includes a pair of side walls, a bottom surface and a fixed wedge having an angled engagement surface positioned on one of the side walls of the U-shaped channel; and wherein the slider includes an engagement surface facing the angled engagement surface of the wedge; the slider being longitudinally movable towards the wedge to pinch the wire against the wedge.

21. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the tongue is defined by the body portion.

22. (Currently amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein the slider is U-shaped and includes an open ended channel, and wherein the [[first]] second engagement surface of the U-shaped slider forms a portion of the open ended channel of the slider, the open ended channel of the U-shaped slider receiving the wire when the wire is side loaded in the channel of the body portion.

23. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the open ended channel of the body is U-shaped.

24. (Previously presented) The wire torquing device of Claim 10, further comprising a tongue disposed in the open ended channel, wherein the tongue cooperates with the engagement surface on the slider to secure the wire in a fixed position.

25. (Previously presented) The wire torquing device of Claim 20, wherein movement of the slider pinches the wire between the engagement surface of the slider and the angled engagement surface of the fixed wedge.

26. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the first engagement surface of the tongue faces the bottom surface of the channel.